



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Northeast Idaho Table 1 shows that the January 2001 Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. The rate, at 3.8 percent, is also three-tenths of a percentage point lower than January of 2000. The LMA is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than the state's rate of 4.5 percent and four-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.2 percent.

During the month of January, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 2,790 persons while total unemployed decreased by 60 persons. This affected total employment by an increase of 2,850 persons. Over the year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1,430 persons, with a decrease of 140 unemployed persons, or 4.3 percent. The yearly increase in the number of employed persons was 1,570.

Bonneville County held the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.4 percent in January, followed by Jefferson, Bingham and Butte counties at 4.0, 4.6, and 4.9 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, had an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 910 jobs from December to January, for a total of 61,400 jobs in the LMA. The largest decreases came from *Retail Trade* (510 jobs – *General Merchandise* and *Eating & Drinking*) and *Construction* (230 jobs – mostly in *Special Trades*). These are the two industries that typically lose the most jobs at this time of year from seasonal changes due to holidays and weather. *Goods-Producing Industries* showed an overall change of the 230 jobs lost due to *Construction* as the other small losses and gains evened out. The *Service-Producing Industries* lost of 170 more jobs than the 510 jobs lost in *Retail Trade*. All other industries showed decreases with the exception of *Government Administration*.

A year-to-year comparison shows

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Jan 2001*	Dec 2000	Jan 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,330	79,540	80,900	3.5	1.8
Unemployment	3,140	3,200	3,280	-1.9	-4.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.0	4.1		
Total Employment	79,190	76,340	77,620	3.7	2.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	80,600	78,710	79,240	2.4	1.7
Unemployment	3,800	3,090	3,920	23.0	-3.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	3.9	4.9		
Total Employment	76,810	75,620	75,320	1.6	2.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	8,330	8,560	8,510	-2.7	-2.1
Mining & Construction	3,290	3,520	3,280	-6.5	0.3
Manufacturing	5,040	5,040	5,230	0.0	-3.6
Food Processing	2,730	2,670	2,900	2.2	-5.9
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	460	470	530	-2.1	-13.2
All Other Manufacturing	1,850	1,900	1,800	-2.6	2.8
Service-Producing Industries	53,070	53,750	51,320	-1.3	3.4
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,360	2,370	2,310	-0.4	2.2
Wholesale Trade	6,040	6,070	5,930	-0.5	1.9
Retail Trade	11,330	11,840	11,180	-4.3	1.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,880	1,890	1,850	-0.5	1.6
Services	21,170	21,250	20,180	-0.4	4.9
Government Administration	5,040	5,020	4,590	0.4	9.8
Government Education	5,250	5,310	5,280	-1.1	-0.6
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 2.6 percent, or 1,570 jobs, from January 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* had an overall decrease of 180 jobs while *Service-Producing Industries* showed an increase of 1,750 jobs. *Construction* was the only major sector in *Goods-Producing Industries* to show an increase (10 jobs). *Manufacturing* lost almost 200 jobs from the previous January coming primarily from *Food Processing* as some higher technological updates have been implemented. Every industry in the *Service-Producing Industries* showed increases with the exception of a loss in 30 jobs from *Government Education*. Almost 1,000 jobs were gained in *Services* (470 from *Engineering & Management*, 180 from *Business Services*, 150 from *Social Services*, and 110 from *Ag Related*). *Government Administration (Local)* also had a large gain over the year.

SPECIAL TOPIC: ANNUAL 2000 FIGURES

After benchmarking the most current figures, data for the year 2000 has been released to show that the *Civilian Labor Force* increased over the year in Clark, Custer, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties. As seen in Northeast Table 2, information from the years of 1998 to 2000 is listed for each county. The largest increase was seen in Madison County with the addition of almost 500 workers from 1999 to 2000.. Jefferson added 230 and Teton

**Northeast Table 2: 2000 Annual
Average Labor Force Data**

County	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployment Rate		
	2000	1999	1998	2000	1999	1998
BINGHAM	21,908	22,125	21,993	4.6	5.0	4.9
BONNEVILLE	46,478	46,706	46,473	3.4	3.6	3.5
BUTTE	1,596	1,630	1,628	3.7	3.9	4.2
CLARK	576	560	594	4.8	3.5	3.8
CUSTER	2,062	2,000	2,150	7.1	8.2	8.6
FREMONT	4,694	4,844	4,999	7.0	6.9	7.0
JEFFERSON	10,269	10,039	9,975	3.9	4.5	4.3
LEMHI	3,667	3,930	4,110	9.0	7.9	8.4
MADISON	11,021	10,539	10,262	2.5	2.6	2.8
TETON	3,314	3,114	2,954	3.1	3.5	3.6

County added 200. Losses were seen in the other five counties, with Lemhi losing the most, 263 workers, from the labor force. Bonneville was the next, losing 228 and Bingham lost 217 workers.

Over a two-year period, increases were seen in Bonneville, Jefferson, Madison and Teton Counties. Madison saw an increase of 759 workers, with Teton at 360 and Jefferson at 294 workers. Losses were seen in all of the other counties, with 443 workers in Lemhi County and 305 jobs in Fremont County. The *Civilian Labor Force* is a count of workers at their place of residence age 16 and older, non-institutionalized and non-military. The *Civilian Labor Force* is affected by several variables, such as retirees, new workforce entrants, and deaths. Teton County has seen tremendous growth from new entrants, as the population shows most of the growth is from migration rather than natural increase. Losses in Lemhi County came primarily from situations in the economy following mine layoffs and closures that have been prevalent for the past several years. Overall, the 10-county area experienced an increase of 100 workers from 1999 to 2000 and an increase of 450 workers over the two-year period.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS: Bonneville County

- American Eagle Outfitters (AE) opened a store in Idaho Falls' Grand Teton Mall earlier this month. The store covers 4,500 square feet. AE has been the official clothing provider to the television drama *Dawson's Creek* for the past two seasons. It features relaxed, versatile clothing. This is the third AE store to open in Idaho, and the 556th store nationwide.
- CableOne took over AT&T Broadband for an exchange of California locations and an undisclosed amount of monetary compensation. Along with the Idaho Falls market, the change affects the Rexburg, Pocatello, Blackfoot, Twin Falls, and Lewiston mar-

kets. The change occurred March 1, but the company does not expect programming or price changes in the immediate future. CableOne plans to continue with the \$12 million equipment upgrade started earlier in 2000 by AT&T. The company is still working out a franchise agreement with the city of Idaho Falls.

- Governor Kempthorne released funds of \$5 million from the state's INEEL settlement earlier this month for a new science and technology research center at University Place in Idaho Falls. Both the University of Idaho and Idaho State University, as well as the citizens of Eastern Idaho, will benefit from the 50,000 square foot center that has been discussed for over four years. Kempthorne's 23-member Science and Technology Advisory Council finalized the plans in January designed to create lucrative technology jobs and provide a more highly skilled work force. Rep. Lee Gagner, R-IdahoFalls, expects the center to employ 90 people at salaries of \$50,000 to \$80,000 per year. The ground breaking on this proposed world-class research facility is expected to take place in May.

Jefferson County

- Teton Outfitters of Rigby was named the Region VI Small Business of the Year by the Small Business Development Center in a February award ceremony. The company manufactures high-tech outerwear designed for the snowmobile market. Teton Outfitter's sales increased from \$22,000 to \$1.2 million from 1998 to 2000 and are expected to double their year 2000 figures this year. The company increased its sales force from 5 to 38 employees since 1998, and is expected to bring in an additional 65 employees as it moves all production in-house.

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